

No Item No.

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF WAR DIES

REF: JCS, 191656Z Dec 74, Conf; Press, Dec. 25, 1974

The Egyptian Minister of War, Field Marshal Ahmad Ismail Ali, aged 57, died in London today. No cause of death has been announced, but he was in London undergoing treatment for cancer.

The leading candidate to succeed Ismail Ali as Minister of War is Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Abd al-Ghani Gamasy. Air Defense chief General Fahmi, prominently featured with Ismail Ali in the Egyptian press lately, may also be a contender. If Gamasy should get the nod, General Fahmi could be a good bet to become the next Chief of Staff.

The shift in the War Ministry is unlikely to change Egyptian military policy which will continue to be determined by President Sadat. Gamasy, however, who led Egypt's delegation to the disengagement talks with Israel at Kilometer 101 a year ago, is perhaps more outspoken and independent of Sadat than Ismail Ali who had long been a close friend of the Egyptian President.

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Mr. Carver

Mr. Lehman

NIO:

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